

Table 5. Themes and subthemes explaining readmission in the qualitative study

Theme	Shared theme <sup>a</sup>	Illustrative quotes from readmitted patients	Illustrative quotes from non-readmitted patients
<b>Social support</b>			
Adequate home support	✓	<p>"My daughter helps me with the dressing and everything... only my daughter takes care of me... and though she is working... and she's busy with two kids... but yet she really cares for me." (041, female, 62 years old)</p> <p>"My son is a doctor who's staying just a block in front of my house. So, he visits me very frequently. His maid will come over and help me clean my house." (023, female, 78 years old)</p>	<p>"After I discharge... at the beginning that few days [sic], it was my husband and my younger brother like [...] They took turns to take care of me..." (062, female, 42 years old)</p> <p>"My daughter-in-law... she has been taking care of me... cooking or anything also she do... any housework also she help to do..." (006, female, 74 years old)</p>
<b>Self-reliance/self-efficacy</b>			
Prepared and feeling able to take care of themselves after discharge (self-efficacy)	X	NA	<p>"I don't need him to take care of me. I can take care of myself." (044, female, 68 years old)</p> <p>"I am able to take care of myself." (040, female, 55 years old)</p>
<b>Finances</b>			
Reports of having adequate financial resources	✓	<p>"Because I am... under pension, so everything still okay... No problem for the medicine from the hospital, [this is given] under pension. I pay only 50 cents so quite all right, quite okay." (017, male, 81 years old)</p> <p>"Financial not really an issue." (003, male, 40 years old)</p>	<p>"Because I have the pioneer generation card privileges, so I got some subsidy from it, also deduct from the CPF [so financial issues are] still okay." (006, female, 74 years old)</p> <p>"My company pay for it... then I not worried about that..." (046, male, 56 years old)</p>
<b>Compliance</b>			
Compliant to medical appointments, but less so to medication	✓	<p>"Sometimes I do forget to take my medication. No, I do not miss my appointments... They will give me the appointment date, then I will go. If [I am] unable to go, [I'll] need to reschedule, [this] is very troublesome. I follow all [appointments]." (023, female, 78 years old)</p> <p>"I will mark down the [appointment] dates in my phone so that I won't forget. Hospital will also call or send letters to remind me of appointment dates... In the morning, I won't forget my medications. But at night, sometimes I may forget especially when I am having dinner outside." (031, male, 69 years old)</p>	<p>"Usually I didn't take my medicine when I am outside. The, maybe if I miss, I still take it but I take it late. I do go for all appointments." (050, male, 80 years old)</p> <p>"I do, I purposely skipped [medication] on Sunday... Because I told my doctor I want to detox myself... because medicine is a drug what, so you must detox. How you detox? So must skip on Sunday lah... check-up cannot skip, can postpone already... but skip 100% cannot [skip] lah. Die early..." (018, male, 78 years old)</p>
<b>Psychosocial coping</b>			
Negative emotions related to the patient role (powerlessness and hopelessness)	X	<p>"I don't want this [being chronically sick], I don't mind die [sic], I can go anytime I don't care one..." (033, female, 76 years old)</p> <p>"... We are just waiting for death... just a lifespan extension of a few years..." (011, male, 65 years old)</p>	NA

Table 5. Themes and subthemes explaining readmission in the qualitative study (Cont'd)

Theme	Shared theme <sup>a</sup>	Illustrative quotes from readmitted patients	Illustrative quotes from non-readmitted patients
<b>Care delivery</b>			
Feeling like a burden and “left out” of care and participation in treatment decisions	X	<p>“We realised the nurse just ignore her completely even when she is in pain so we asked ‘why?’ [The hospital staff then told us] ‘we already gave her the laxative... we already do what we can.’” (009, female, 79 years old)</p> <p>“Attentiveness of the nurses is not that great. I feel quite neglected.” (039, female, 59 years old)</p>	NA
<b>Trust</b>			
Wrong medicine or ineffective treatment was administered	X	<p>“But sometimes the medications that the doctors give also no effect. [They work] very slow, [and the doctors] not say don't have effect [sic]. That's why I feel frustrated sometimes.” (019, female, 54 years old)</p> <p>“I carry the inhaler with me as a “rescue” medication. I used the red one every morning and night, it's to protect the lungs, but it does not have much effect I feel. I just follow the doctor's instructions. I did told [doctor] but he [doctor] just asked me to continue using...” (031, male, 69 years old)</p>	NA
<b>Knowledge</b>			
Adequate discharge instructions given	✓	<p>“So if there is a wound there, keep it dry and don't keep it wet. Then constantly clean with antibacterial soap. [health care workers say:] Don't stick [anything] on it, don't put pressure on it, don't carry heavy things.” (021, male, 40 years old)</p> <p>“In order to prevent lymphedema, I need to do massage on myself, they teach me how to do massage and then prevent myself from having cuts and all the infections...” (025, female, 39 years old)</p>	<p>“They told me not to touch it, because it can bleed, don't touch it, because [if I follow this] it will heal faster. They will just clean it up. So they [...] just told me what to eat, [and] not to eat the oily food.” (008, female, 50 years old)</p> <p>“They told me I can bathe but I need to dry it and be gentle to the wound...” (034, female, 65 years old)</p>
Described having less knowledge and/or compliance to healthy diet	X	<p>“I eat at outside. One day three meals at outside... Eat at outside is not good.” (029, male, 76 years old)</p> <p>“...I would say 60–70% of my meals are from outside. Because I also work, so it is a bit difficult to eat at home. Try to [order healthy food]. Sometimes outside food a bit unavoidable...” (021, male, 40 years old)</p>	NA

<sup>a</sup> In the shared themes column, ✓ denotes that these were indeed shared across the readmitted and non-readmitted patients, as illustrated by all quotes; X indicates that they were not; NA signifies therefore that the quote is not applicable